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To : Chief, KUCLUB (EYES ALONE)

Date 10 July 1953

FROM : Chief, ASCA

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Policy
SPECIFIC- Research and Development Priority Assignments

REFERENCE:

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1. Below please find a dispatch which I later decided could better be sent to the Home Office as unofficial correspondence. I believe the points discussed are valid but the unofficial approach will circumvent copies in registries, etc., etc. There is no personal criticism intended toward any individuals, sections, or divisions. I trust you will understand ASCA concern and action in this matter.

2. Reference document was received and read with considerable interest by this Headquarters. I was naturally quite interested in the status of development of the various projects. Moreover, much interest was placed by this Headquarters in the priorities assigned to the various projects. Since the matter is of vital interest to this area, an immediate check was made of the priority assigned to the miniaturization of the Hand Generator and was happy to note that it had a priority 1.

3. Turning to the more general task of becoming apprised of the status of other developments, the rest of the document was read. As I progressed thru the document I felt a growing concern over the seemingly large number of Priority 1's assigned to other projects. A recount was made and the following resulted:

Total Projects Listed - 27

Projects assigned Priority 1 - 17

Projects assigned Priority 2 - 3

Projects assigned Priority 3 - 6 (One of these, RS-12, indicates it will be submitted to the R & D Board for priority assignment.)

Projects assigned no Priority- $\frac{1}{27}$

4. All in all it appears that a disproportionate number of development projects are assigned a #1 priority. If I may express a personal view on the subject, I would consider the development year a resounding success if nothing were produced other than a hand generator whose weight and cube were commensurate with the

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other equipment used [redacted] As an organization we have been 50X1
 fumbling first, the SSP-11, and next the GN-58 for approximately 11 years and we
 are no farther along at this date than we were at the beginning. In some aspects
 we are even further behind than at the start, since, during WW-II we were able to
 borrow British generators which were not as pretty and could not be operated under
 every climatic condition found in the world but were light, quiet, and capable of
 driving the equipment.

5. In further reviewing this report I find sharing the #1 priority with the
 hand generator all sorts of projects that are advancements to the general art we
 are furthering. I can readily understand the desire to come up with a new means
 or a super-refinement of an old means, but we have not yet licked the basics as
 long as we insist that our field teams carry 28 pounds of assorted gears, steel,
 copper, etc., to generate power. I read where the CU-1 will allow completely
 automatic operation [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] 50X1

Where will it get its power? All this emphasis on the transmitter-receiver of
 the future with so little effort to solve a truly deplorable situation related to
 our present RS-1, RS-6, RS-5 category, if nothing else, leads me to assume that
 the practical but mundane problems of today are being leap frogged in order to
 get into the more interesting field of basic research for tomorrow. One of the
 last to say such research is unnecessary, I must and will maintain that the solu-
 tion of todays problems, whatever their interest level to Engineering, will lead
 to many of tomorrows answers, though the reverse is not likely. If I seem overly
 sensitive to todays inadequate equipment, it is because I have equipped a very
 large number of agents with this equipment and cringed inwardly each time I allow-
 ed myself to think about the territory this human being would have to traverse
 carrying his 75-100 pounds of radio equipment, possibly unnecessarily heavy.
 Every Area Chief's meeting to date has brought forth pleas for lighter GN-58
 type equipment, and each report finds it's lack of progress hidden behind promises
 of action and pictures of futuristic transmitters.

6. I know that the general stock phrase to be expected to turn aside the
 view expressed in this letter will be along the following lines: "These projects
 are not internal projects but are being investigated by private contractors who
 use the time and efforts of their development facilities." This is basically
 true but it is also misleading. These projects require supervision and administra-
 tion by the Home Office Engineering staff. The projects are also much more roman-
 tic than a small generator, and an Engineer can't be blamed for being more in-
 trigued by the possibilities extant. This is not a totalitarian type of endeavor
 and consequently we cannot control completely the Engineers' mind. However, in
 this instance I think it would be desirable.

7. It is sincerely requested that a most serious re-evaluation of assigned
 priorities be made with a view of assigning LAAAA to the miniaturization of the

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hand generator and upon assignment of such a priority, establishing, within the minds of the development group, sufficient emphasis as will result in a production model within one year's time if it accomplishes nothing more than reducing the weight by 1 pound and reduces the cube by one square inch. If nothing more than that is done we will have progress. It is further suggested that automatic communications take a back seat in priorities until all of today's problems are solved, thoroughly and completely. We must have progress, but we must not find ourselves unable to solve tomorrow's problems and unable to satisfy today's requirements.

8. It must be admitted that the above represents a view that is perhaps provincial in scope since ASCA is operating against a target that is not developed, as well as is Western or Eastern Europe. It is further conceivable that our opponents have not as yet displayed too great capability to counter our program and as a result we are not appreciative of the value of that which we take exception to. If that is the case then we must point out that the views above, at least represent the requirements of this area which is the day to day limit of our present responsibility.

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